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EUR/ERA, EAP/CM, PM/RSAT, AND ISN/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/20/2020 TAGS: <u>PREL PARM CH EUN BU</u>

SUBJECT: BULGARIA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT EU ARMS EMBARGO

ON CHINA

REF: SECSTATE 13969

Classified By: Ambassador James Warlick for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) We delivered reftel points to MFA Asia Directorate representatives Vera Monova and Ivatz Vladaitchev on February 18. In response to recent comments by Spanish government officials regarding the lifting the EU arms embargo on China, Monova emphasized that Bulgaria will continue to strongly support the arms embargo. Monova stated that she is not aware of any movement within the EU to change this policy and that we should not take Spain's comments too seriously. According to Monova, Bulgaria is also following the human rights situation in China very closely and Bulgaria's position is consistent with the U.S. government's. WARLICK